

Compliments of...

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HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW





California State Assembly

CATHLEEN GALGIANI

17TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Kids:

Ever wonder how a law is made? If you ever thought that there ought to be a law to change things for the better, then you are in for a treat. The following coloring book shows you how a bill can become a new law.

Every year thousands of ideas to change existing laws or add new laws are presented in the State Legislature. These ideas are written on a paper that is then called a “bill.” Not all bills automatically become new laws. Bills need to be debated and voted on by your state representatives – Assemblymembers and Senators. If a bill passes through all its committees, the Senate, the Assembly and is signed by the Governor, then it becomes a new law.

To learn more, just follow your host “Billy.” He comes up with a fun idea, makes it into a bill and moves it through the Legislature.

Good luck and have fun learning about turning a good idea into a new law.

For more information, please contact my office at (209) 948-7479.

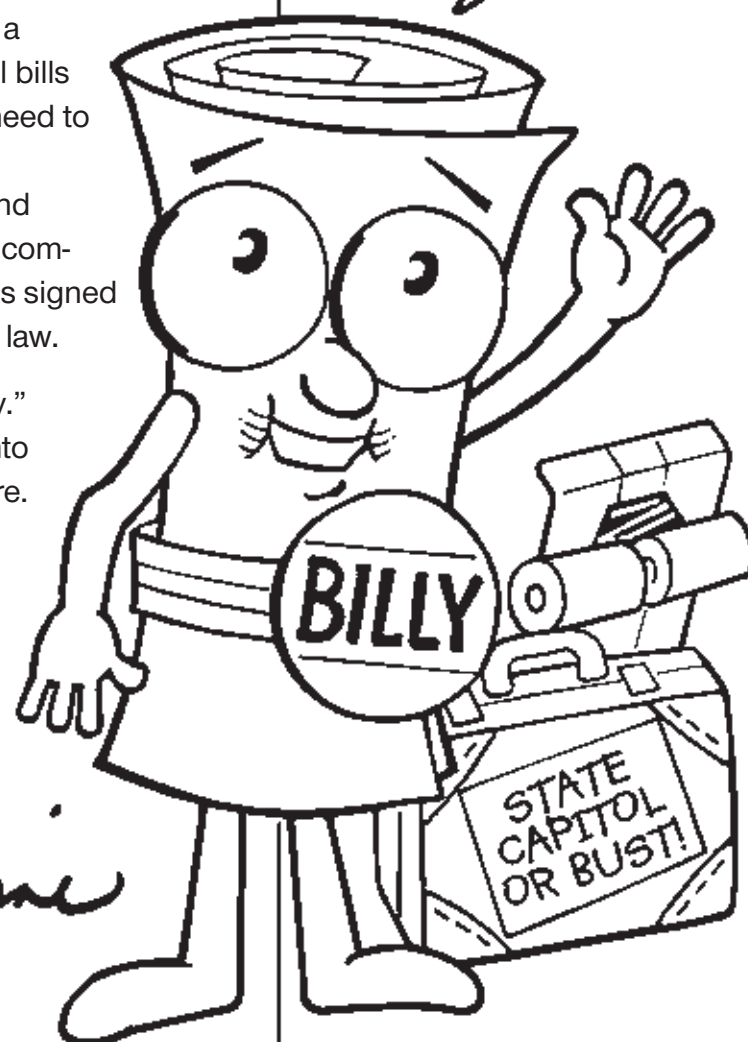
Sincerely,

Cathleen Galgiani

CATHLEEN GALGIANI

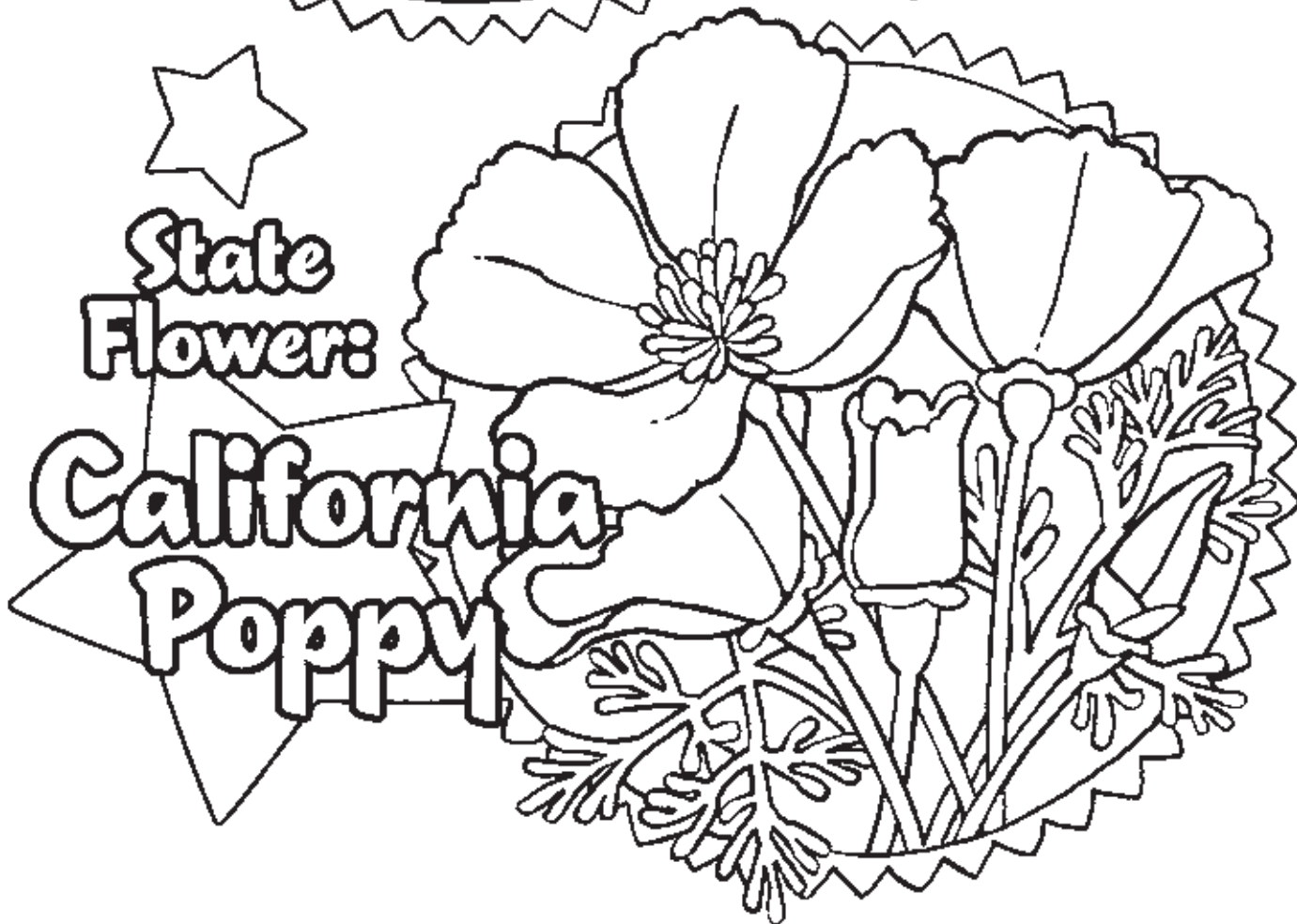
Assemblymember, 17th District

Hey Kids!
I'm Billy—your guide
through the maze of
California government.
Today I'm going to
show you how new
laws are made.

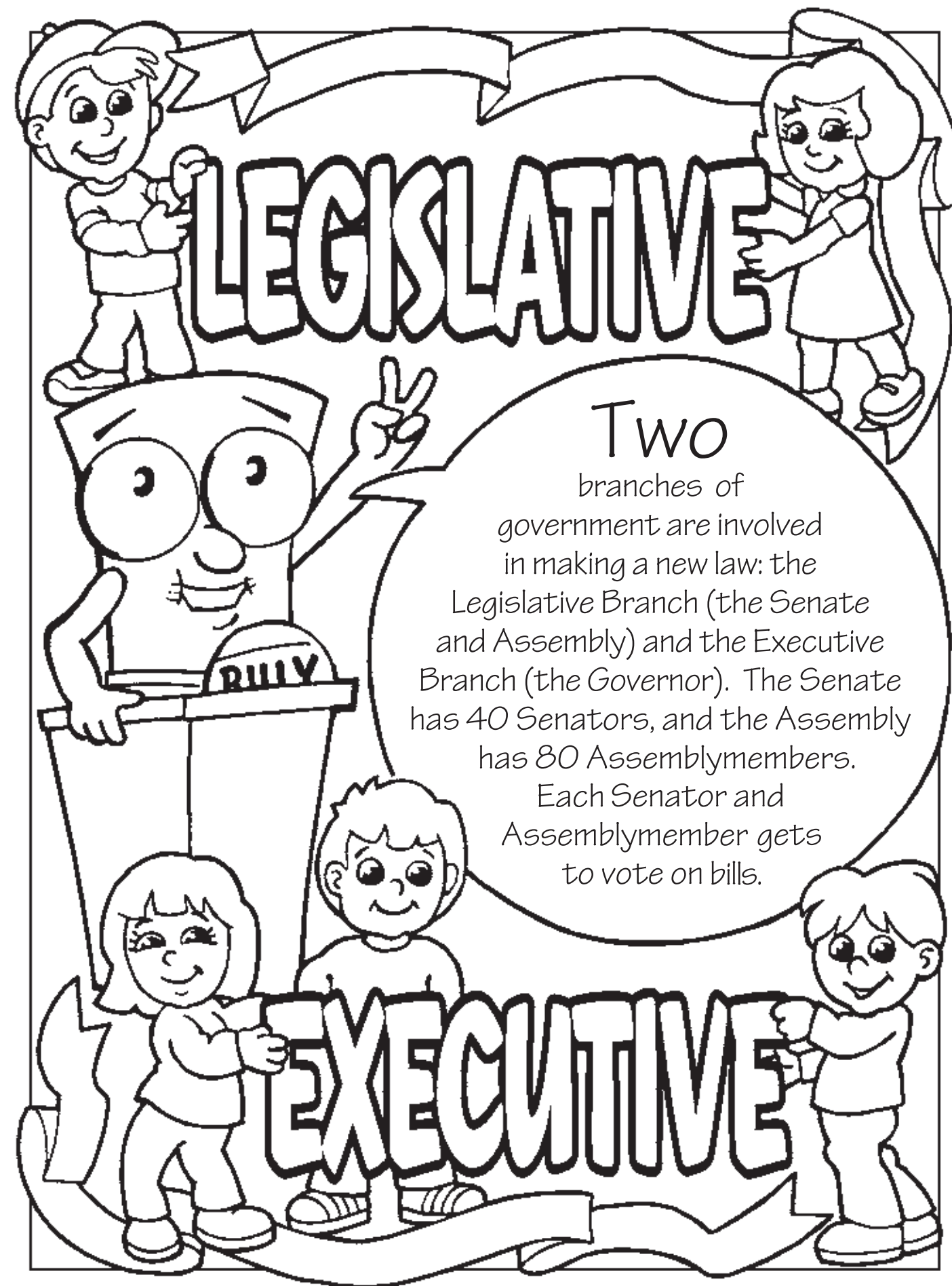




State
Animal:
Grizzly
Bear



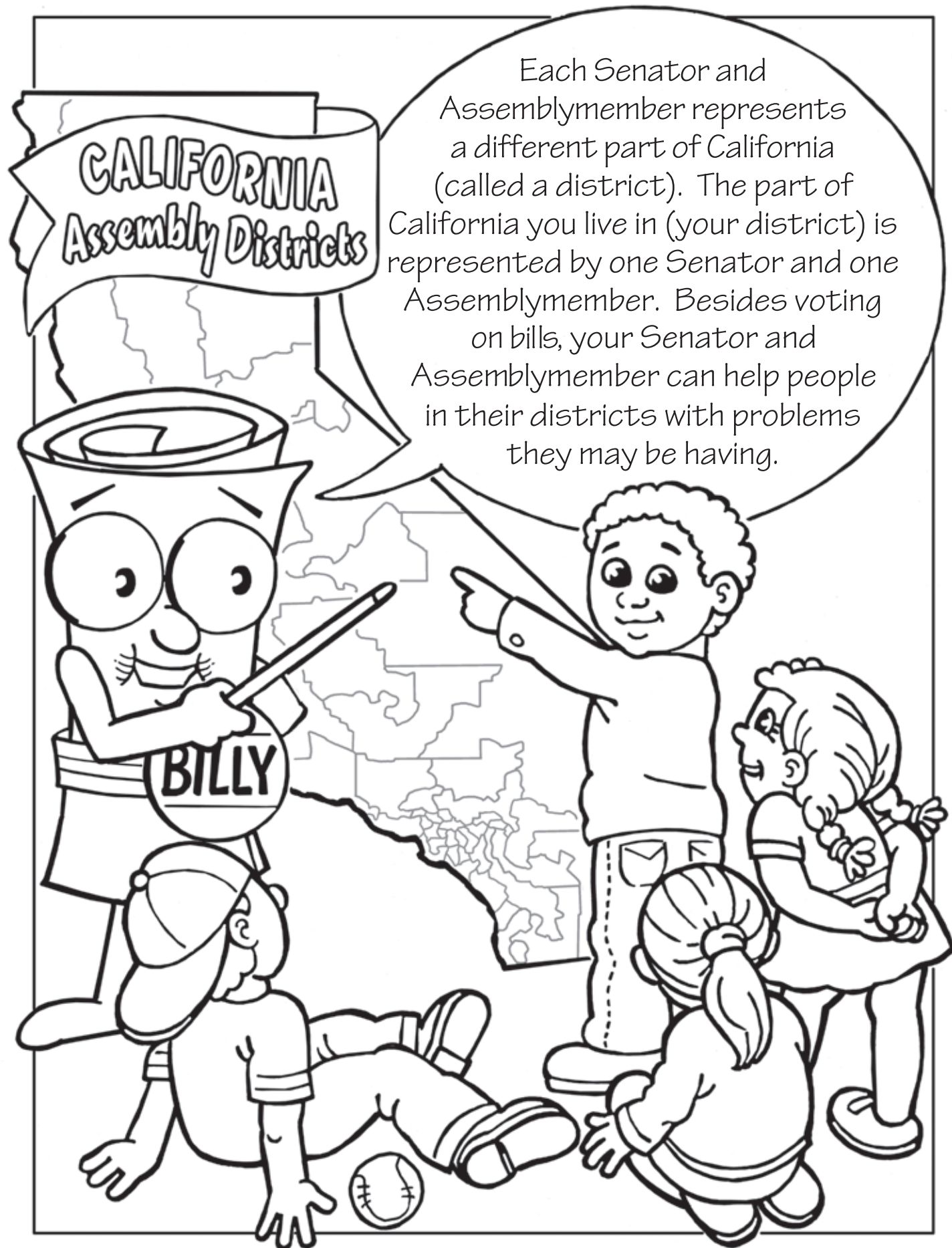
State
Flower:
California
Poppy



LEGISLATIVE

Two
branches of
government are involved
in making a new law: the
Legislative Branch (the Senate
and Assembly) and the Executive
Branch (the Governor). The Senate
has 40 Senators, and the Assembly
has 80 Assemblymembers.
Each Senator and
Assemblymember gets
to vote on bills.

EXECUTIVE

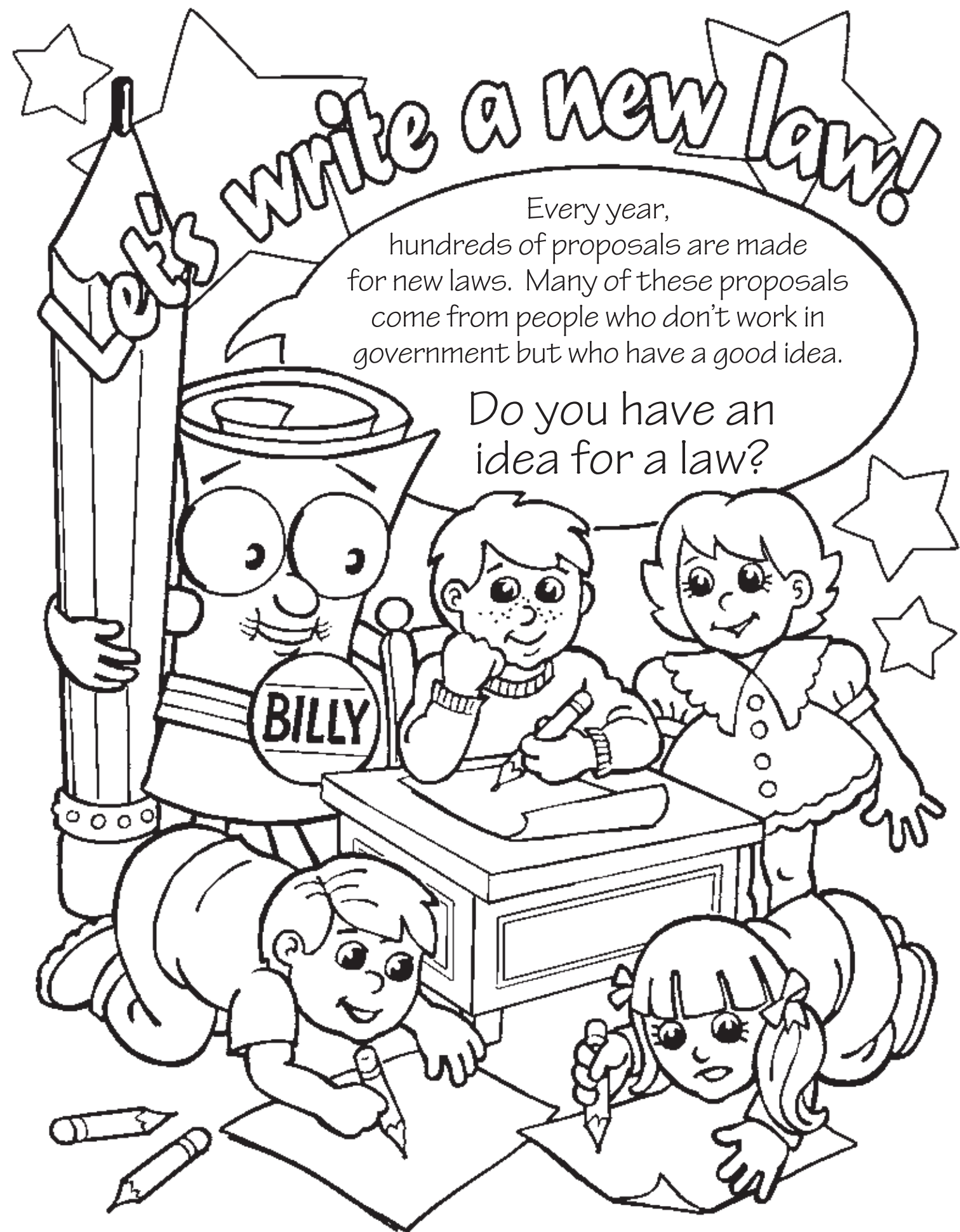
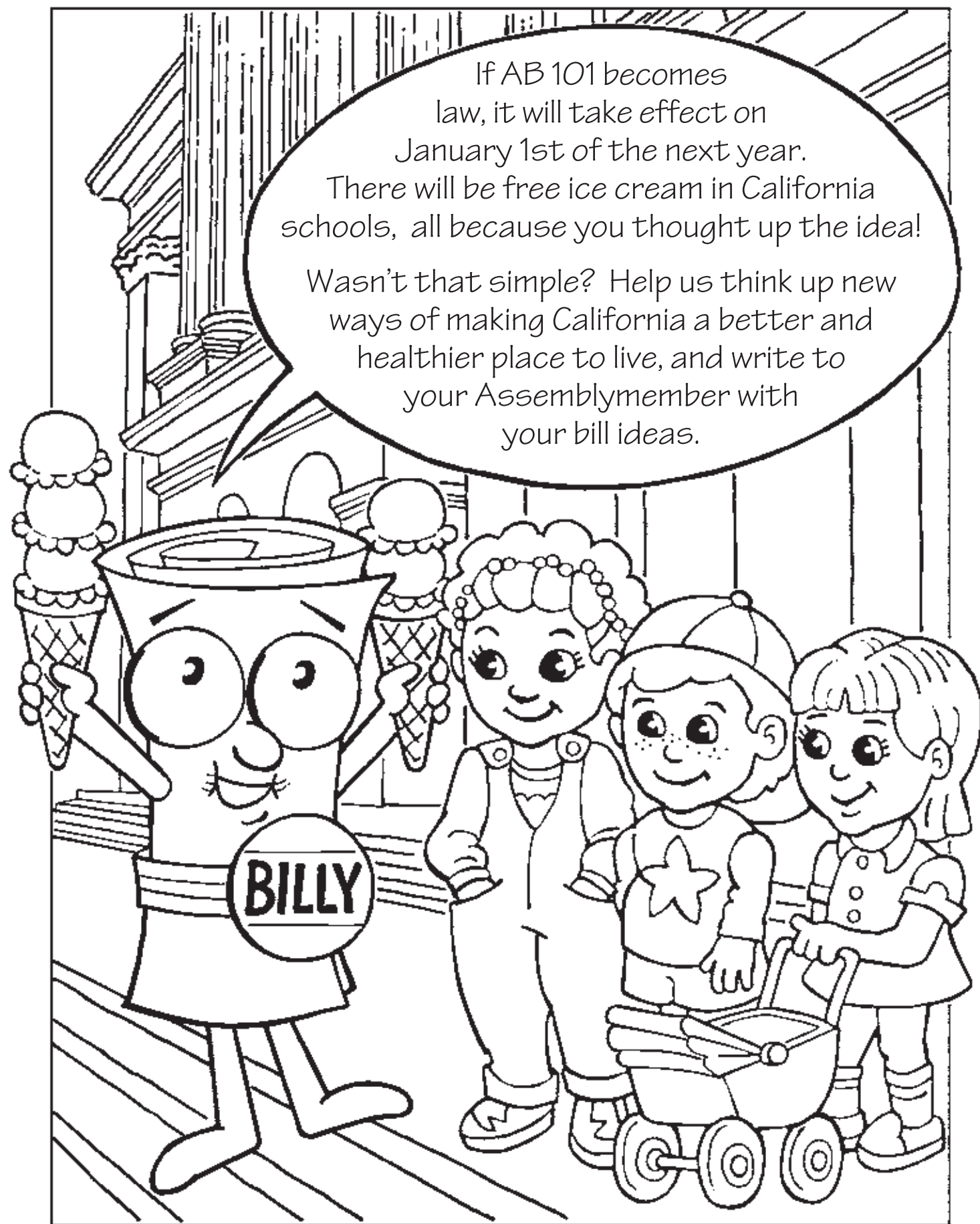


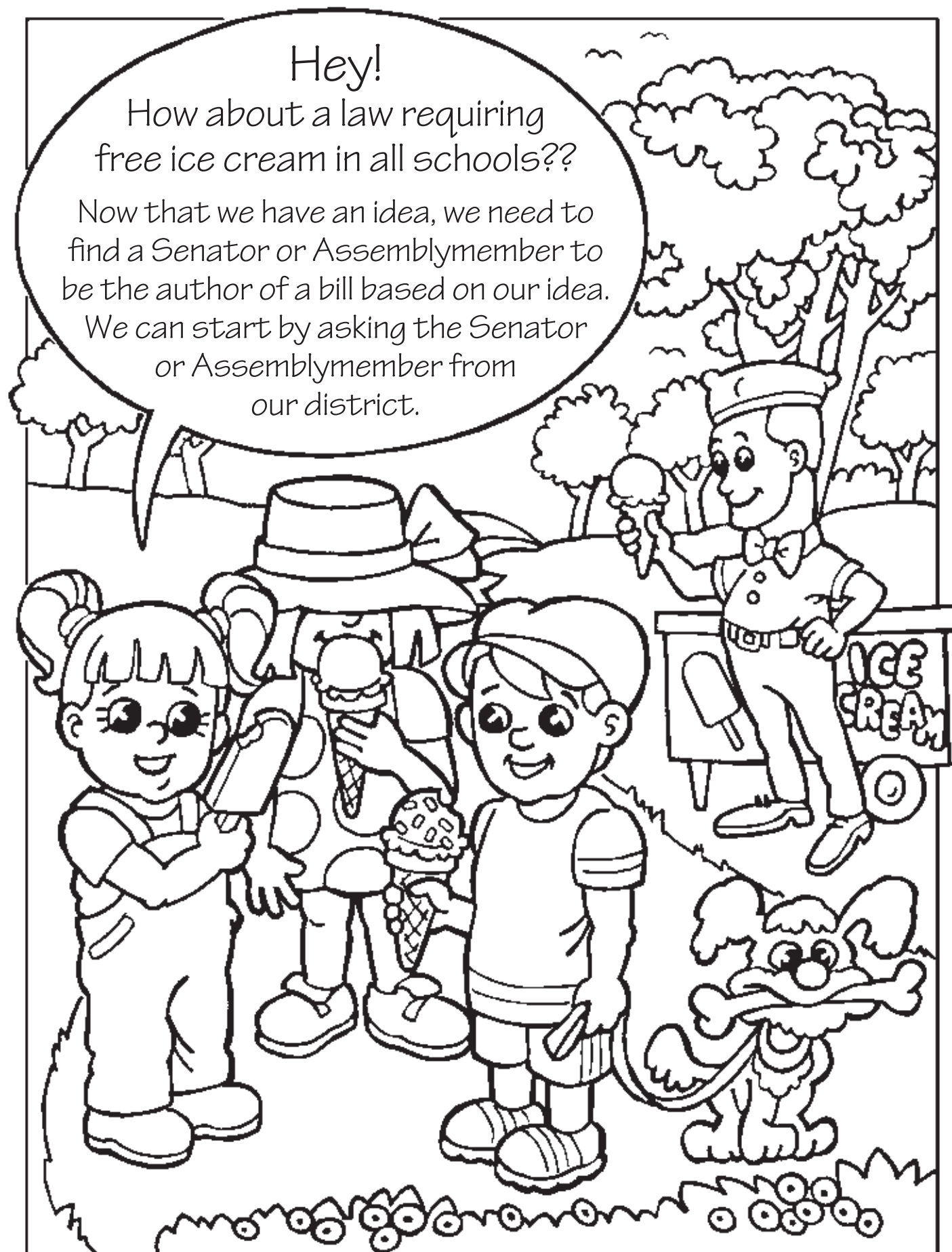
Find the following words from the word bank in the puzzle.
They may be up, down, horizontal, diagonal, upside down or backwards.

ASSEMBLY
BILL
CAPITOL
GOVERNOR

LAW
PASS
SENATE

SPEAKER
VETO
VOTE



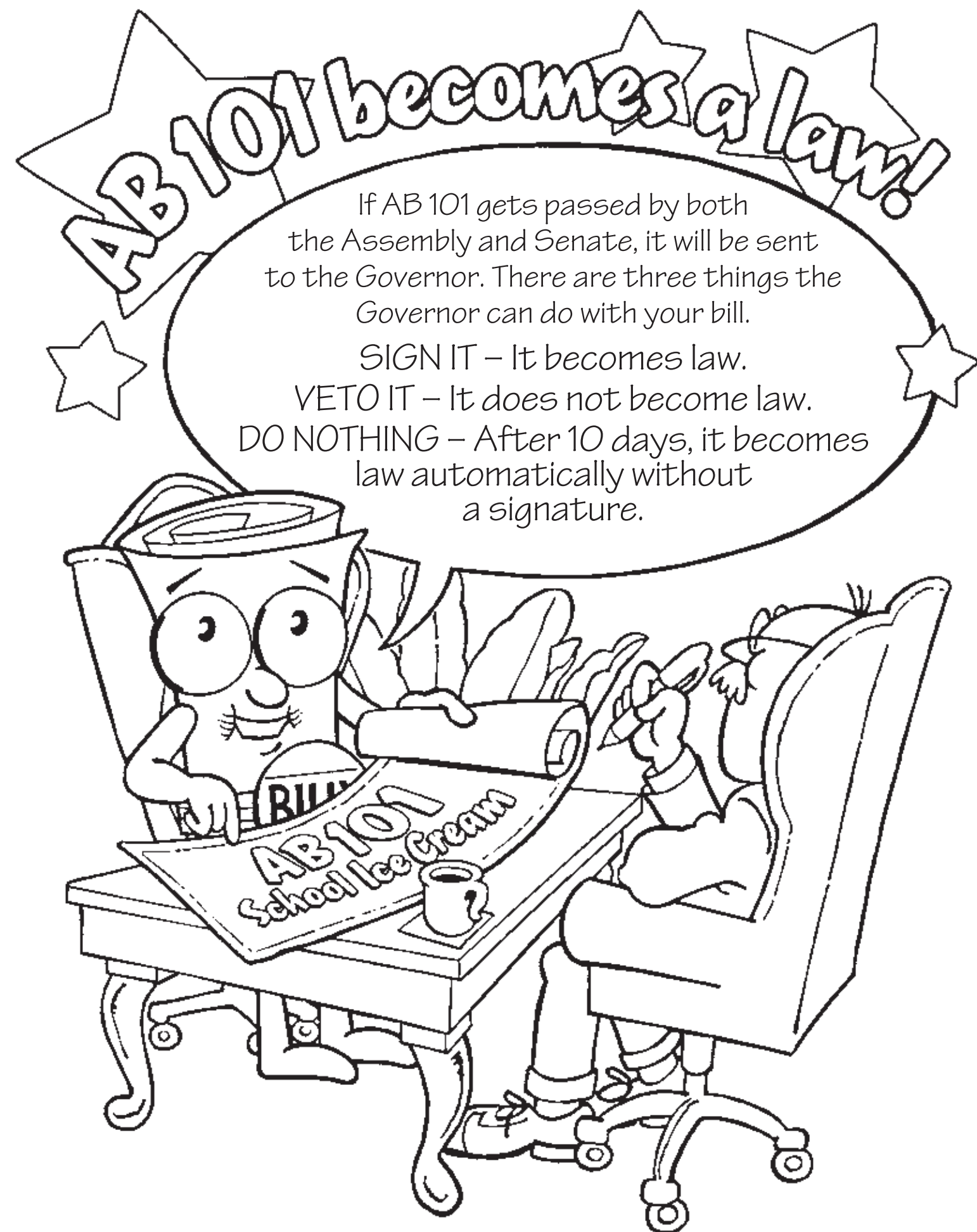


Hey!

How about a law requiring
free ice cream in all schools??

Now that we have an idea, we need to
find a Senator or Assemblymember to
be the author of a bill based on our idea.

We can start by asking the Senator
or Assemblymember from
our district.



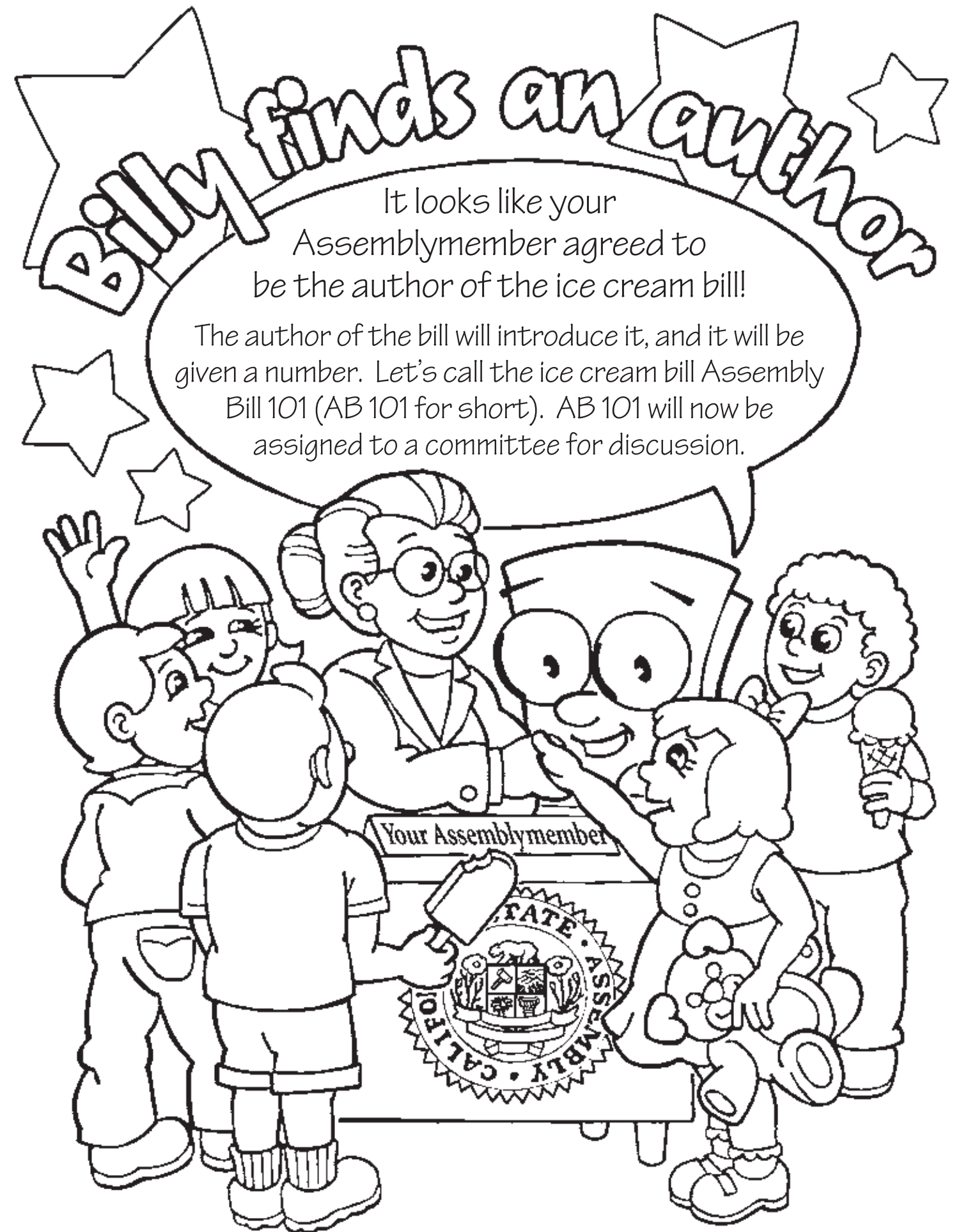
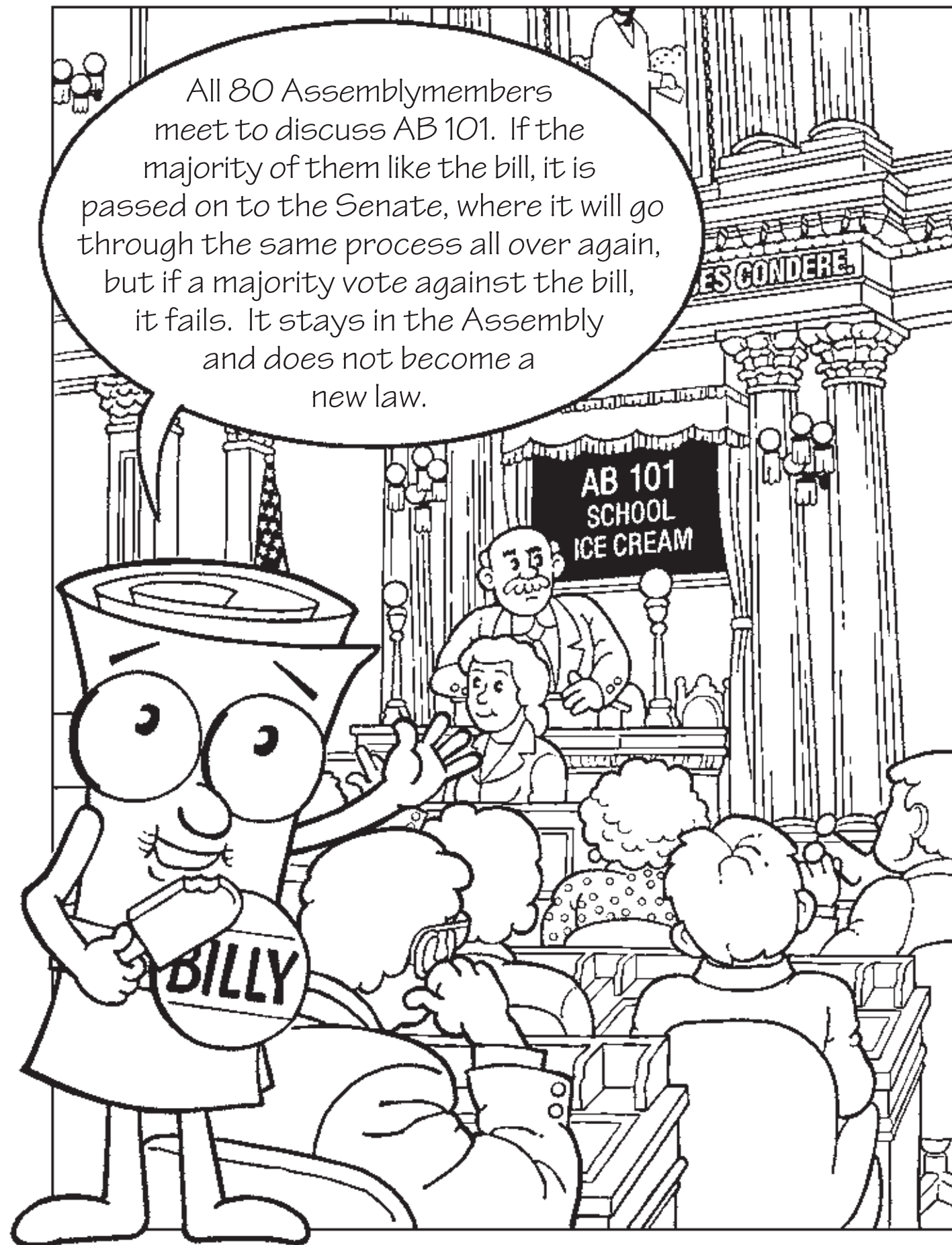
AB 101 becomes a law!

If AB 101 gets passed by both
the Assembly and Senate, it will be sent
to the Governor. There are three things the
Governor can do with your bill.

SIGN IT – It becomes law.

VETO IT – It does not become law.

DO NOTHING – After 10 days, it becomes
law automatically without
a signature.



An Assembly Committee

is a small group of Assemblymembers. Committees hold public hearings where anyone can come and discuss a bill. There are many committees, each discussing bills on specific subjects — for example, one committee will discuss bills about cars and one committee will discuss bills about doctor visits. A bill could also be discussed by more than one committee.



After a bill is discussed at a hearing, the committee members vote on whether it would be a good law. If the majority of the committee's members like the bill, they pass it and send it to the full Assembly for another vote.

Guess what? The committee liked the ice cream bill. AB 101 has passed!

